

WASHINGTON, D.C. , Congressman John W. Olver (D-1st District) announced that the U.S. House of Representatives has approved funding for transportation projects in Franklin County.

"Many residents are dependent upon accessible transportation to get to educational centers, health and human services, and other essential destinations," Olver said.

Olver secured the funding in the FY07 Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development (HUT) appropriations bill.

Olver is the Ranking Member (most senior Democrat) of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development.

The Senate must still approve its appropriations bill and then both chambers would have to approve a reconciliation bill.

\$720,000 for Franklin Regional Transit Authority Buses This funding will purchase three, 30-foot buses that will provide service to residents of Franklin County.

This funding will allow FRTA to accommodate more riders, which is needed because ridership on the Countywide Fixed Route has increased significantly in recent years.

"FRTA fixed route service provides a vital link for residents of Franklin County, one of the poorest and most rural counties in the nation," Olver said.

For additional information about this project, contact:

M. Denise Wallenius, Administrator, FRTA, at 413-774-2262, ext.105 or denise@frta.org

\$2.53 million for resurfacing of Routes 5 & 10 in Bernardston This funding will go toward resurfacing, minor shoulder work, and other improvements on these routes.

The Route 5 work begins at the Greenfield town line and proceeds northerly approximately 5.9 miles to the intersection with Route 10.

This route is a commuter road for the region, therefore improvement of the roadway would improve access to the region's major employment centers.

In FY06, Olver secured \$1 million toward this project.

For additional information about this project, contact:

Albert R. Stegeman, District 2 Mass Highway Director, at 413-584-1611

\$600,000 for Northfield Main Street revitalization project This funding will go toward a revitalization project to enhance the historic and cultural resources of the town, increase economic development, and improve the quality of life for residents.

The construction of new sidewalks, streetscape improvements, plantings, pedestrian scale lighting, and other improvements will be completed by the end of the fiscal year.

The project includes a two-mile section Main Street from the intersection with Route 10 to the intersection with Route 1A.

"Revitalization of Main Street will enhance the historic and cultural resources of the town, increase economic development, and improve the quality of life for residents," Olver said.

For additional information about this project, contact:

Sue Draves, Northfield Town Administrator, at 413-498-2901

\$500,000 for Western Mass. Scenic Byway Tourist Promotional Campaign This funding will go toward a promotional campaign to promote six scenic byways in Western Massachusetts.

Many states widely promote their scenic byways as tourist destinations and alternative travel ways, and this campaign will do the same for Western Massachusetts.

For more information on this project, contact:
Nathaniel Karns, BRPC, 413-442-1521, ext. 26

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